

RALPH M. HALL, TEXAS
MICHAEL BILIRAKIS, FLORIDA
VICE CHAIRMAN
FRED UPTON, MICHIGAN
CLIFF STEARNS, FLORIDA
PAUL E. GILLMOR, OHIO
NATHAN DEAL, GEORGIA
ED WHITFIELD, KENTUCKY
CHARLIE NORWOOD, GEORGIA
BARBARA CUBIN, WYOMING
JOHN SHIMKUS, ILLINOIS
HEATHER WILSON, NEW MEXICO
JOHN B. SHADEGG, ARIZONA
CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING, MISSISSIPPI
VICE CHAIRMAN
VITO FOSSELLA, NEW YORK
ROY BLUNT, MISSOURI
STEVE BUYER, INDIANA
GEORGE RADANOVICH, CALIFORNIA
CHARLES F. BASS, NEW HAMPSHIRE
JOSEPH R. PITTS, PENNSYLVANIA
MARY BONO, CALIFORNIA
GREG WALDEN, OREGON
LEE TERRY, NEBRASKA
MIKE FERGUSON, NEW JERSEY
MIKE ROGERS, MICHIGAN
C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, IDAHO
SUE MYRICK, NORTH CAROLINA
JOHN SULLIVAN, OKLAHOMA
TIM MURPHY, PENNSYLVANIA
MICHAEL C. BURGESS, TEXAS
MARSHA BLACKBURN, TENNESSEE

ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515-6115

JOE BARTON, TEXAS
CHAIRMAN

July 24, 2006

JOHN D. DINGELL, MICHIGAN
RANKING MEMBER
HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA
EDWARD J. MARKEY, MASSACHUSETTS
RICK BOUCHER, VIRGINIA
EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK
FRANK PALLONE, JR., NEW JERSEY
SHERROD BROWN, OHIO
BART GORDON, TENNESSEE
BOBBY L. RUSH, ILLINOIS
ANNA G. ESHOO, CALIFORNIA
BART STUPAK, MICHIGAN
ELIOT L. ENGEL, NEW YORK
ALBERT R. WYNN, MARYLAND
GENE GREEN, TEXAS
TED STRICKLAND, OHIO
DIANA DEGETTE, COLORADO
LOIS CAPPS, CALIFORNIA
MIKE DOYLE, PENNSYLVANIA
TOM ALLEN, MAINE
JIM DAVIS, FLORIDA
JAN SCHAKOWSKY, ILLINOIS
HILDA L. SOLIS, CALIFORNIA
CHARLES A. GONZALEZ, TEXAS
JAY INSLEE, WASHINGTON
TAMMY BALDWIN, WISCONSIN
MIKE ROSS, ARKANSAS

BUD ALBRIGHT, STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

Earlier this year Congress mandated a "hard date" of February 17, 2009, for the end of the transition from analog to digital television broadcasting. Given the number of tasks that must be accomplished before that date by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and by industry, we want to ensure that the Commission and industry are taking appropriate and timely action so that consumers will be prepared when analog broadcasting ends.

With that in mind, please provide a status report on certain aspects of the digital television transition. In particular, we ask for information on the following:

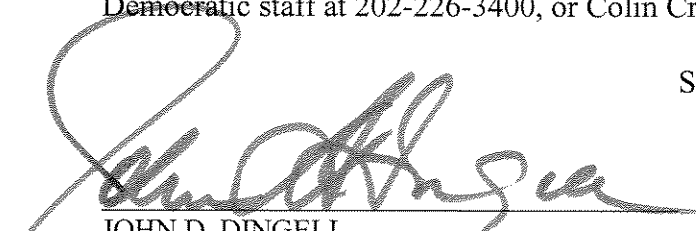
1. What is the status of the digital channel selection process? At what point is the channel election process expected to be complete for all broadcasters?
2. Does the FCC view changes in a station's channel position, programming, and/or power as a change of service? With respect to classification of service, does the FCC view the service provided by a broadcaster on its digital channel as a different service than that provided by broadcasters on its analog channel?
3. A possible impediment to universal digital conversion in February of 2009 is the fact that our neighbors to the north and south are on digital conversion schedules that do not coincide with ours. What is the status of international coordination of digital channel allotments with Canada and Mexico?
4. What is the status of the proceeding addressing children's television obligations for digital television broadcasters?

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Page 2


5. What is the status of the Commission's proceeding on public interest obligations for digital television broadcasters?
6. What is the status of the digital transition for low power stations?
7. What is the status of any effort by the Commission to educate consumers about aspects of the DTV transition?
8. What other steps is the Commission taking to ensure a smooth transition?

Please provide the information requested as soon as possible and thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter. If you need further information, please contact us or have your staff contact Johanna Shelton with the Committee on Energy and Commerce Democratic staff at 202-226-3400, or Colin Crowell with Rep. Markey's office at 202-225-2836.

Sincerely,



JOHN D. DINGELL
RANKING MEMBER



EDWARD J. MARKEY
RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS
AND THE INTERNET

cc: The Honorable Joe Barton, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Fred Upton, Chairman
Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet

The Honorable Michael J. Copps
Federal Communications Commissioner

The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein
Federal Communications Commissioner

The Honorable Deborah Taylor Tate
Federal Communications Commissioner

The Honorable Robert M. McDowell
Federal Communications Commissioner